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Dear Producers and Data Users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris
Mark Harris
Director

March Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage devoted to corn, hay, dry edible beans, oats, and sunflowers, decrease acreage planted to winter wheat (sown last fall), sorghum, and sugar beets, while leaving soybean acreage unchanged from a year ago. Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.4 million acres in 2005, up 2 percent from last year and up 4 percent from two years ago. Expected plantings of soybeans, at 4.8 million acres, would be unchanged from last year. This would tie for second highest on record, behind only the 4.95 million acres planted in 2001. Last fall, winter wheat

was sown on 1.8 million acres, down 3 percent from a year earlier and down 5 percent from two years ago. Sorghum growers expect to plant 390,000 acres, 29 percent less than 2004 and 41 percent less than 2003. Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.85 million, would be up 2 percent from last year. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 160,000 acres, up 33 percent from a year earlier. Oat planting intentions, at 150,000 acres, are up 7 percent from 2004. Sunflower planting intentions, at 95,000 acres, are up 70 percent while sugar beet plantings of 49,000 acres would be down 2 percent from a year ago.

Crop Summary: Acres Planted, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2005

Crop	Nebraska				United States			
	2003	2004	Inten- tions 2005 ¹	<u>2005</u> 2004	2003	2004	Inten- tions 2005 ¹	<u>2005</u> 2004
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Corn	8,100	8,250	8,400	102	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
Soybeans	4,550	4,800	4,800	100	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
Sorghum	660	550	390	71	9,420	7,486	7,400	99
Oats	220	140	150	107	4,597	4,085	4,267	104
Barley	6	6	³		5,348	4,527	3,974	88
Dry Beans	155	120	160	133	1,406.1	1,354.3	1,663.5	123
Sugar Beets	45.3	49.8	49.0	98	1,365.4	1,346.0	1,299.0	97
All Hay ²	3,150	2,800	2,850	102	63,383	61,916	62,940	102
All Wheat	1,900	1,850	1,800	97	62,141	59,674	58,592	98
Winter Wheat	1,900	1,850	1,800	97	45,384	43,350	41,613	96
Sunflower - Oil	51	36	55	153	1,998	1,533	2,185	143
- Non-oil	15	20	40	200	346	340	565	166
- All	66	56	95	170	2,344	1,873	2,750	147

¹Intended plantings as indicated by reports from farmers. ²Intended acres for harvest as indicated by reports from farmers. ³Estimates discontinued in 2005.

Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2005.

Grain Stocks

Nebraska corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005, totaled 821 million bushels, up 27 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 109 million bushels, up 37 percent from last year. Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2005, totaled 31 million bushels, down 27 percent from a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005, totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 stocks level since 1988. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from 2004. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2005, totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Grain Stocks: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2005

Grain and Position	Nebraska				United States			
	March 1, 2003	March 1, 2004	March 1, 2005	<u>2005</u> 2004	March 1, 2003	March 1, 2004	March 1, 2005	<u>2005</u> 2004
	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Corn								
On Farms	325,000	380,000	520,000	137	2,940,000	3,030,000	4,137,000	137
Off Farms ¹	270,547	268,219	301,122	112	2,191,873	2,241,459	2,616,738	117
Total	595,547	648,219	821,122	127	5,131,873	5,271,459	6,753,738	128
All Wheat								
On Farms	4,500	7,000	3,400	49	236,300	257,890	304,710	118
Off Farms ¹	31,015	34,742	27,134	78	670,333	762,727	676,304	89
Total	35,515	41,742	30,534	73	906,633	1,020,617	981,014	96
Soybeans								
On Farms	31,000	21,000	55,000	262	636,500	355,900	795,000	223
Off Farms ¹	46,202	58,047	53,634	92	565,528	549,947	585,974	107
Total	77,202	79,047	108,634	137	1,202,028	905,847	1,380,974	152
Sorghum								
On Farms	4,000	3,400	4,700	138	27,500	21,000	33,400	159
Off Farms ¹	14,502	15,720	13,791	88	135,423	137,652	169,989	123
Total	18,502	19,120	18,491	97	162,923	158,652	203,389	128
Oats								
On Farms	900 ₂	1,500 ₂	1,100 ₂	73	35,000	45,600	43,500	95
Off Farms ¹					47,879	49,414	39,026	79
Total	2	2	2		82,879	95,014	82,526	87

¹ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
Source: USDA NASS Grain Stocks, March 31, 2005.

Soybeans: Asian Rust Awareness by Selected States and United States, Percent of All Farms and Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions, March 2005

State	Have you seen, read, or heard any information about Asian Rust?					
	All Farms			Farms Reporting Soybean Intentions		
	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Don't Know
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Iowa	87	6	7	94	2	4
Kansas	61	32	7	89	8	3
Missouri	62	31	7	93	6	1
Nebraska	86	13	1	96	3	1
South Dakota	76	20	4	95	5	*
United States	43	51	6	89	8	3

* Data rounds to less than 0.5 percent.

Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2005.

Soybeans: Asian Rust Impact on Planting Intentions for All Farm Operators who are Aware of Rust by Selected States and United States, March 2005

State	Was Asian Rust a factor in your planning intentions?			
	Yes	If so, how did your intentions change?		
		Increase	Decrease	No Change
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Iowa	8	10	49	41
Kansas	5	4	56	40
Missouri	5	8	28	64
Nebraska	8	17	43	40
South Dakota	8	5	71	24
United States	6	7	53	40

Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2005.

Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005, was 2.75 million head. This was 4 percent below March 1, 2004 and December 1, 2004, and the lowest inventory since March 1, 1976. Breeding inventory, at 355,000 head, was down 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but unchanged from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.4 million head, was 4 percent below last year and last quarter.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 59.9 million head on March 1, 2005. This was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from March 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

Hogs and Pigs: March 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2004-2005

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2005/2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
March 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	2,850	2,750	96	59,520	59,899	101
Breeding	360	355	99	5,961	5,941	100
Market	2,490	2,395	96	53,558	53,957	101
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	980	970	99	19,823	19,817	100
60-119 pounds	640	600	94	12,954	13,087	101
120-179 pounds	470	470	100	11,205	11,430	102
180 pounds and over	400	355	89	9,578	9,624	100
Sows Farrowing						
December-February ¹	175	175	100	2,836	2,851	101
March-May	175	175 ²	100	2,870	2,870 ²	100
June-August	175	175 ²	100	2,905	2,880 ²	99
September-November	170			2,852		
Total Sows Farrowing ³	695			11,462		
Pig Crop						
December-February ¹	1,558	1,575	101	25,105	25,489	102
March-May	1,558			25,633		
June-August	1,558			26,162		
September-November	1,530			25,558		
Total Pig Crop ³	6,204			102,457		

¹ December preceding year.

² Intentions.

³ May not add due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, March 24, 2005.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary March 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Mar 2004 ¹	Feb 2005 ¹	Mar 15, 2005	Mar 2004 ¹	Feb 2005 ¹	Mar 15, 2005	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
All wheat	Bushels	\$ 3.63	\$ 3.20	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.83	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.53	35	\$ 10.00
Corn	Bushels	2.62	1.89	2.00	2.75	1.95	2.03	30	6.71
Oats	Bushels	1.64	1.70	1.60	1.60	1.66	1.60	40	3.99
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	4.82	2.87	3.15	4.84	2.95	3.17	29	11.00
Soybeans	Bushels	9.15	5.29	6.10	9.28	5.42	6.28	39	16.20
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	50.00	51.00	50.00	81.80	84.70	89.10		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	51.00	51.00	50.00	86.20	91.90	96.40		
Other, Baled	Ton	45.00	48.00	48.00	72.00	70.00	70.40		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	16.60	24.50	24.10	20.20	27.80	27.40	54	50.90
Hogs	Cwt.	48.10	52.20	52.20	47.20	50.70	51.50	48	108.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	48.20	52.40	52.40	47.60	51.00	51.80		
Sows	Cwt.	42.10	43.60	42.00	39.90	45.00	43.80		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	87.60	93.00	97.40	83.70	89.00	91.90	53	174.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	88.80	94.20	98.70	88.00	93.30	96.30		
Cows	Cwt.	49.10	55.60	55.60	46.50	52.40	53.60		
Calves	Cwt.	123.00	137.00	135.00	115.00	128.00	132.00	56	236.00
Sheep	Cwt.	35.10	48.40		36.70	51.30			85.10
Lambs	Cwt.	111.00	109.00		103.00	114.00			211.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for March 2005.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, March 30, 2005.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

February 2005 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 2004 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, February 2005 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	Feb 2005 Percent of	
		Feb 2004	Jan 2005
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	500.5	103	90
Hogs, head	560.8	109	97
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	511.6	106	91
United States			
Cattle, head	2,341.2	96	93
Calves, head	61.9	87	91
Hogs, head	8,103.8	103	96
Sheep & Lambs, head	215.0	101	103
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,423.0	101	94

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, March 24, 2005.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, February 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Feb 2005 Percent of	
		Feb 2004	Jan 2005
1,000 Lbs			
Total red meats	959,419	104	99
Beef	403,815	93	88
Pork	544,521	114	109
Poultry	1,016,902	100	103
Turkey	386,434	82	115
Chicken	629,993	116	97

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, March 22, 2005.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, February 2005 with Comparisons

Item	2004	2005	2005/2004
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.8	12.1	102
United States	339.6	349.0	103
Table Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	254	244	96
United States	5,895	5,895	100
Chickens Hatched, February			
United States			
Egg-type	32.1	32.9	103
Broiler	727.9	731.3	100

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, March 22, 2005.

2004 Cropland Data Layer Available

The Cropland Data Layer for Nebraska depicting distribution of 2004 crops is now available on CD Rom. Order it at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm> or call 1-800-727-9540.

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